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was very fine, and some of the choruses were beautifully rendered.

On Thursday morning, Mendelssohn's *Lobgesang* or *Hymn of Praise* was sung, and rarely has this composition experienced a worthier interpretation. The solo parts of Madame Clara Novello, Mrs. Weiss, and Mr. Sims Reeves, were perfection. The remainder of the morning was occupied with selections from Costa's *Eli*, and Handel's *Israel in Egypt*.

On Friday morning the oratorio of the *Messiah* drew the largest assembly during the festival, and a finer performance of this great work could not have been desired.

The evening concerts were held at the College Hall. The selection of music upon these occasions was excellent, and it was all most ably performed. The numbers present at the morning performances amounted to 5,122, and the amount collected realised about £990.

NORFOLK AND NORWICH FESTIVAL.

THE 12th musical festival in aid of the funds of the principal charities in the county of Norfolk and the city of Norwich took place on the 15th of September, and the three following days. The principal singers were Madame Clara Novello, Madlle. Leonhardi, Madame Weiss, Mrs. Lockey, Madlle. Piccolomini, Sig. Gardoni, Sig. Giuglini, Mr. Lockey, Mr. Miranda, Mr. Weiss, and Sig. Beletti. Conductor, Mr. Benedict.

The week's performances commenced with an evening concert of miscellaneous music, on Tuesday, the 15th. On Wednesday morning, Spohr's sacred cantata, *God, Thou art great*, Mendelssohn's *Hymn of Praise*, and Mozart's *Requiem* were performed. On the evening of the same day, a second miscellaneous concert. On Thursday, Beethoven's *Mount of Olives*, and Haydn's *Seasons*. On Thursday evening there was a third concert. On Friday morning the *Messiah* attracted, as usual, an immense audience. This was the close of the week's entertainments, with the exception of a fancy-dress ball, which took place on Friday evening.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

This Journal is published on the 1st of every month.

The late hour at which Advertisements reach us, interferes much with their proper classification.

All communications must be authenticated by the proper name and address of the writer, not necessarily for publication.

Colored Envelopes are sent to all Subscribers whose payment in advance is exhausted. The paper will be discontinued where the Subscriber neglects to renew. We again remind those who are disappointed in getting back numbers, that only the music pages are stereotyped, and of the rest of the paper, only sufficient are printed to supply the current sale.

We would request those who send us country newspapers, wishing us to read particular paragraphs, to mark the passage, by cutting a slit in the paper near it.

We cannot undertake to return offered contributions; the authors, therefore, will do well to retain copies.

Brief Chronicle of the last Month.

BIRMINGHAM.—The Festival Choral Society had a performance of the *Creation*, on Thursday evening, the 24th ult. The principal vocalist were Mrs. Sunderland, Mr. Perring, and Mr. Lambert. Leader, Mr. H. Hayward; organist, Mr. Stimpson; chorus-master and conductor, Mr. W. C. Stockley. The band and chorus consisted of 250 performers.

BRADFORD.—Jackson's oratorio, *The Deliverance of Israel*, is announced for performance in St. George's Hall,

Bradford, on the 2nd November, with Yorkshire talent, including Mrs. Sunderland, Miss Freeman, Mr. Inkersall, &c., under the baton of the composer.

BURLINGTON-QUAY.—On Wednesday, September 9th, Miss Maria Wilson, of Hull, assisted by Messrs. Plowman, Hird, Hudson, Holmes, and Sumner, from the Wilberforce Institution for the Blind, York, gave a concert at the Victoria Room to a very large audience. The programme was an excellent selection of choice compositions, and the concert gave general satisfaction.

CAMBRIDGE.—On Thursday, September 8th, a private performance of some of the finest works of the great John Sebastian Bach was given by the Amateur Bach Society in this University.

CANTERBURY.—A new society, under the name of the Canterbury Musical Union, has held its first meeting for rehearsal. Handel's *Judas Maccabæus* was selected for practice. Mr. Longhurst conducted, and Mr. Lyon led.

CHARLTON.—On the 1st of September the choir gave a public rehearsal of sacred music in the village church of Charlton, in Kent, which was well filled by members of the congregation and other lovers of good music. The selection consisted of Chants, Responses, Te Deums, Psalms, and Anthems; the execution of which was admirable. A *Te Deum*, composed by Mr. Cox, the talented organist of the choir, was deserving of very much praise. Great credit is due to this gentleman for the pains he has taken in improving the singers, who perform the service in a most efficient style.

CHELTENHAM.—The two grand concerts lately given by Messrs. Hale and Son, at the Assembly Rooms, with Mesdames Grisi, Alboni, Gassier, Signors Mario and Stanziere, &c., proved a treat of no ordinary kind to those who attended. We are sorry to say, however, that owing to the bad news from India, and the fact of nearly everybody being "out of town," the attendance was far from large.

CHELTENHAM.—Messrs. Hale and Son gave another grand concert last Thursday, at which the *élite* of our town and neighbourhood were present. When we mention the names of Piccolomini, Giuglini, Belletti, Vascetti, Poma, Rossi, and Beneventano, we need scarcely add that the performance was everything that could be desired.

CRYSTAL PALACE.—A most interesting concert took place on the 2nd of September, when 3,000 children, instructed on the principles adopted by the Tonic Sol-fa Association, sung. The audience was one of the largest that has yet assembled in the building, amounting to 29,573, and the scene was of a very exciting nature. The applause was unbounded, and the little singers richly deserved the praise, for their performance was most effective, and their shrill voices were well adapted to the peculiarities of the building. The *pianos* and *fortes* were admirably sustained. The important duty of conducting this large body of choristers was fulfilled alternately by Mr. Sarll, of the Royal British Institution, Cooper Street, City Road, and Mr. W. S. Young, of the British School, Wood Street, Spitalfields. A comparatively small choir of tenors and basses, members of the Association, assisted; a greater number would have produced a better effect. Between the parts of the concert, Mr. Willing performed upon the large organ. His selection consisted of some themes from *Lucrezia Borgia*, a prelude and fugue by Bach, and Meyerbeer's "Coronation March." The fugue was received with the most applause, and was remarkably well played.

CRYSTAL PALACE.—On Saturday, September 19th, a concert took place for the benefit of Mr. Distin. The charge being only one shilling entrance, the attendance was proportionately numerous. Every available seat for either seeing or hearing was filled long before the commencement of the concert. The programme comprised a long list of singers, more or less celebrated, at the head of which stood Madame Clara Novello, who sung with great effect

Weber's beautiful scena, "Softly sighs," and also Mozart's "Deh vieni non tardar," and an old Jacobite song. Her great superiority in style and in voice was recognised by all, and the applause she received was immense. Madame Caradori, Miss Louisa Vinning, Madame Enderssohn, Miss Theresa Jefferys, Mr. Montem Smith, and a number of others exerted, themselves to their utmost; but there are very few whose powers are sufficient to fill the prodigious space of this vast concert-room. The great defect of the programme consisted in a want of concerted music, there being no fewer than nineteen solos and four duets. The Messrs. Distin performed several times upon the sax-horns, to the entire satisfaction of the audience. After the concert, there was a display of the upper fountains, and subsequently a performance upon the large organ by Mr. J. T. Cooper.

DAVENTRY CHORAL SOCIETY.—On Monday, September the 21st, 1857, the members of the above society gave an evening concert in the Theatre, Daventry, which was numerously and respectfully attended. The first part of the programme presented to view a selection of sacred music, from the celebrated works of Handel, Haydn, and Mozart, which was performed in a highly creditable manner, under the conductorship of Mr. G. H. Wadley. The band, which was full and efficient, was led by Mr. S. T. Howard, and Mr. Bleaney presided at the pianoforte and harmonium. The second part of the performance included a selection of secular music, consisting of songs, trios, glees, and choruses, embracing the glees entitled "The Deaf Old Women," and "The Stammerers," which were performed in character, and produced a hearty *encore*. This society is in a prosperously progressive state, and we hope the endeavours of its members to improve each other, as well as to gratify the public, will be adequately compensated.

DOVER.—The first half-yearly meeting of the Dover Choral Classes, formed under the direction of Mr. Edwin Barnes (professor to the London Society for Teaching the Blind, and organist of St. George the Martyr), was held at the Wellington Rooms, on the 11th of September. The audience was very select; the tickets (300 in number) being issued to members only. The music was admirably rendered, and careful attention was paid to the *pianos* and *fortes*. The directors must be congratulated upon the improvement of the singers. The number of members already amounts to 120, and it is probable that during the ensuing winter there will be a considerable increase in the society.

GRIMSBY.—The second public performance of the Grimsby Choral Society took place on the 22nd ult., at the Corn Exchange; and the managers of that society had the deserved gratification of seeing their efforts to improve the musical taste of this town rewarded by a full room. The first part consisted of a judicious selection from the *Messiah*, the choruses of which were rendered with good effect. A miscellaneous selection of secular music formed the second part of the evening's entertainment. The solo vocalists were Mrs. Temple, Miss Cook, and Mr. Newton, who acquitted themselves respectably in the songs appropriated to them. The band and chorus were ably led by Mr. T. Smith, who filled the double character of conductor and leader.

LEICESTER.—The performance of the *Creation*, on the 9th September, was very successful. The attraction of Haydn's masterpiece, performed by the artistes engaged upon this occasion, sufficed to draw a large audience, nearly 1500 persons being present. Madame Clara Novello was the "bright particular star" of the evening, this, her re-appearance in Leicester after a lapse of nearly twenty years, being anxiously looked for by those who have "music in their souls," and who know how to admire and appreciate the qualities of an artiste unrivalled in this, the grandest style of art—the interpretation of Sacred Song; and whose voice time has mellowed and experience enriched, without detracting of a particle from the freshness which constituted its youthful charm. Madame

Novello was greeted with enthusiasm, and the delight of her audience was increased by every successive piece in which her vocal powers were called into requisition. Mr. Thomas sustained the bass part of the oratorio, and shared with Madame Clara Novello an *encore* for the duet, "Graceful consort." Mr. Oldershaw sang the music allotted to the tenor voice well; his careful and musician-like delivery of the solos, especially the beautiful air, "In native worth," was fully appreciated by the audience, and received well-merited applause. The band was effective. The chorus was all that could be desired; every point was well rendered, and each chorus given with admirable precision. Miss Deacon sang the second treble solos with good effect; and Mr. Lohr filled in the harmonies judiciously and well on the harmonium. Mr. Alfred Nicholson undertook the arduous post of conductor with great ability, and by his care and energy contributed greatly to the successful issue of the undertaking.—*Leicestershire Guardian*.

LIVERPOOL.—A concert was held on the 21st September, for the benefit of the widow and family of the late Mr. Lacy Townsend Gaskill. Miss Jessie Hammond, Miss Hills, Miss Lacy Gaskill, and other vocalists, kindly gave their services. Mr. Harold Swift, pupil of the conductor, Mr. Joseph Skeaf, jun., played a pianoforte solo, which evinced great talent, creditable both to pupil and master.

MELBOURNE.—On Tuesday, June 23rd, Mendelssohn's *Elijah* was performed by the Melbourne Philharmonic Society to a crowded audience, in a large building erected for displaying the various curiosities and works of art which were contributed to the Great Paris Exhibition by this colony. The solos were taken by Madame Anna Bishop, Mrs. Goodliffe, Miss S. Flower, Mr. Farquharson, and Mr. Ewart. Mr. King, formerly of the Bath concerts, led; and Mr. John Russell, whose unceasing activity in the service of the society claims some acknowledgment, conducted.

MUSICAL LECTURE BY THE REV. H. W. BEECHER.—We have been visited at North Reading by Mrs. H. B. Stowe and the Rev. H. W. Beecher. From the Rev. H. W. Beecher we had a familiar and instructive address on music, as it relates to public and divine service. In speaking of singing, and the importance or necessity of clergymen taking the matter in hand, he says: "There never will be good music in the Church until ministers show more interest, and view it in its proper light as their co-worker." Choirs generally are to him as the hair-cloth is to the Catholic, a matter of mortification, and they seldom fail in performing their work; most ministers compare choirs to bomb-shells, liable to explode at any time, and fearing that they may, are careful to keep out of the way of the pieces. He considered that music has an important work to perform in church service, and that it has not accomplished its purpose till all the people sing.—*New York Musical Review*.

MUSICAL EDUCATION IN PHILADELPHIA.—"A young lady, who had been three years at a *fashionable* school in Philadelphia, studying under the best masters, came home to Kentucky, and her father told me she wished to continue her music-lessons under me; but he himself thought she was *perfect in music*. Well, the first lesson I gave her, she played for me a very simple two-page piece, at the end of which D.C. was printed. As she did not repeat the first part, I happened to ask her what D.C. meant at the end of a piece. With the greatest astonishment she said, *Don't you think I know?* After answering her that it was impossible for me to determine that, she said indignantly, *Don't K-y. mean Kentucky?* I said, Yes. *Well, then, don't D.C. mean District of Columbia?* She had to go to Philadelphia to learn that."—*New York Musical World*.

OSWESTRY.—The first choral meeting in connection with the Oswestry Choral Society will be held on the 2nd of October, in the Powis Hall; when Miss Williams and Mr. Pierce will be the principal vocalists, and Mr. Charles Eyeley, leader of the orchestra.

READING.—A concert of sacred music was given by the St. Mary's Church Choir, at the New Hall, on the 21st ult., under the direction of their energetic master, Mr. Dawson, organist of the church. The vocal performances, which were very creditable, were relieved by some choice pieces upon the organ, very tastefully and effectively played by Mr. Dawson.

RYDE (Isle of Wight).—A new musical society has been formed in this town by Mr. A. S. Holloway, the conductor to the Ryde Philharmonic Society, and organist of St. Mary's Catholic Church. It is called the Musical Union, and the routine of operations will include the practice of sacred and secular, choral and orchestral music, and four concerts during the season, at the new Music Hall in Lind-street. We understand that a new oratorio, by Mr. Holloway, is in rehearsal.

STRATFORD (ESSEX) CHORAL SOCIETY.—This association gave a very successful concert at the Brick-fields Chapel, on Tuesday, September 1st. The programme consisted of a lengthy and judiciously-chosen selection from Handel's *Saul*, and several *morceaux* from Haydn's *Creation*, Mendelssohn's *Elijah*, &c. The performance was creditable to the society (which has been in existence about twelve months only), and to its intelligent conductor, Mr. George Biddle; and must have been very gratifying to those present who are anxious for the spread of musical knowledge among the people.

THE VOCAL ASSOCIATION.—The first general meeting of the Vocal Association was held at the Music Hall, Store-street, on the 9th of September; when a number of members attended to hear the report read, and to receive an abstract of the society's account. The report shows a balance of nearly £20 in the hands of the treasurer, after paying all the current expenses of the season, commencing December 15th, 1856, and terminating on the evening of the meeting. The library of music must be considered as a very important feature in the society's proceedings, and shews much diligence on the part of the officers. The round numbers are as follows:—sixty different part-songs, glees, &c., allowing one copy to each of the members; making a total of 18,000 copies, the exclusive property of the society. The public performances were an interesting item in the report, especially the five which took place at the Crystal Palace. At the first of these, the number of visitors was 6,000; and the last, 18,000. The thanks of the meeting were voted to the different officers of the society. Mr. Benedict, the conductor, in returning thanks, gave his assurance that he was determined to go forward with the association, and personally to superintend the whole of the rehearsals in the forthcoming season. The following honorary members were proposed and elected:—Mr. and Madame Goldschmidt, Mr. and Mrs. Bartholomew, and Herr Küchen. The secretary, Mr. W. Lockyer, announced that the next meeting for rehearsal would take place the third week in October.

WORTHING.—Mr. Messiter gave a morning and evening concert, at the Town Hall, on the 15th of September, assisted by the Worthing Choral Class. The following vocalists were engaged:—Mrs. Clare Hepworth, Mrs. Paget, Mr. Montem Smith, and Mr. Thomas. Pianoforte, Mr. Messiter. The morning performance consisted of selections from *Judas Maccabæus*; and the evening concert included an operatic and miscellaneous selection. The music was very ably executed.

OBITUARY.—**DR. IONS.**—We are sorry to record the sudden death of Mr. Thomas Ions, M.B., the talented organist of St. Nicholas Church, Newcastle, which took place on the evening of the 25th ult., under peculiar circumstances. It appears Mr. Ions had been out at Gateshead Fell, teaching, and was returning home in a cab. Report says that on passing over the High Level, the party at the toll thought him to be asleep, and did not disturb him; and when he got home it was discovered he was quite dead. The cause is said to be disease of the heart.

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